

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
Charlottesville Division**

ELIZABETH SINES, SETH WISPELWEY,  
MARISSA BLAIR, APRIL MUNIZ,  
MARCUS MARTIN, NATALIE ROMERO,  
CHELSEA ALVARADO, JOHN DOE, and  
THOMAS BAKER,

Plaintiffs,

**Civil Action No. 3:17-cv-00072-NKM**

v.

JASON KESSLER, et al.,

Defendants.

**PLAINTIFFS' SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF  
THEIR RESPONSE REGARDING CHRISTOPHER CANTWELL'S  
ECF FILINGS 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1077, 1078, 1084, 1085, 1086,  
1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1102, 1103**

Plaintiffs have previously articulated their suspicion that Defendant Christopher Cantwell has been using another inmate, William A. White, to “ghost write” a profusion of Mr. Cantwell’s recent filings. *See* ECF No. 1108 at 5-7; ECF No. 1134 at 1-3. It is now clear that our suspicions were completely accurate. Indeed, such unauthorized practice of law with respect to Mr. Cantwell has continued, with Mr. Cantwell flooding the docket with even more ghost-written submissions. *See, e.g.*, ECF Nos. 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Cantwell’s improper use of ghostwriters is no longer subject to legitimate dispute. In

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<sup>1</sup> To date, Cantwell has submitted no fewer than **38** ghost-written filings (excluding exhibits and affidavits). *See* ECF Nos. 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1077, 1078, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1102, 1103, 1109, 1110, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1132, 1133, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162. The Court has even acknowledged that Cantwell is “working with Mr. White” in making a multitude of filings in its recent Order denying as moot two of Cantwell’s motions. ECF No. 1181 at 1.

fact, Mr. Cantwell has all but admitted he has been using ghostwriters in connection with his recent filings to this Court. On a recent podcast called “SoToSpeak: Clearly Not Transcompetent” and recorded on October 7, 2021, Mr. Cantwell openly admitted to relying on not *one*, but *two* individuals to assist with his recent filings. *See* Jared Howe and Christopher Cantwell, SoToSpeak Podcast, Ep. 771, Clearly Not Transcompetent, at 32:20-37:01 (Oct. 7, 2021) (hereinafter “Cantwell Podcast”), *available at* <https://www.iheart.com/podcast/256-so-to-speak-w-jared-howe-30946957/episode/s-o-t-o-s-p-87761849/>. While it turns out our theory about Mr. White was correct, we now know that Mr. Cantwell has also been relying on Matthew Hale, a white supremacist and former attorney who was convicted of soliciting the murder of a federal judge in Chicago. *See United States v. Hale*, No. 03 CR 11-JM (N.D. Ill. 2004); Matt O’Connor, *Hale gets 40 years for plot to kill judge*, CHICAGO TRIBUNE (Apr. 7, 2005), <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-2005-04-07-0504070253-story.html>. William White, Cantwell’s other legal ghostwriter, is connected to Mr. Hale since he was convicted of soliciting violence against a juror in Mr. Hale’s murder trial.<sup>2</sup> *See United States v. White*, 698 F.3d 1005, 1008 (7th Cir. 2012).

More specifically, during this recent podcast, Cantwell volunteers to the podcast host (Jared Howe) that he met two “really smart guys in the communications management unit, ... Matt Hale [and] Bill White,” who are “good to me.” Cantwell Podcast at 32:36-35:03. Mr. Cantwell explains that Mr. Hale “made an attorney of himself before he got arrested” and that Mr. White “has been helpful to me filing motions with the court .... Could I do this without him? No....” *Id.*

As Plaintiffs previously have noted, the practice of ghostwriting in connection with *pro se*

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<sup>2</sup> White has also sent threatening messages to judges, U.S. Attorneys, and prosecutors. *United States v. White*, No. 7:08-cr-00054, 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 66100, at \*2 (W.D. Va. Apr. 5, 2021).

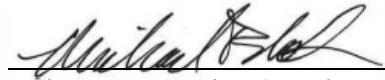
litigants raises serious procedural, ethical and practical concerns, and for those reasons, courts have had little reservation prohibiting such “unauthorized practice of law.” *See Greene v. U.S. Dep’t of Educ.*, No. 4:13cv79, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 143678, at \*26-27 (E.D. Va. Oct. 1, 2013); *Sejas v. MortgageIT, Inc.*, No. 1:11CV469 JCC, 2011 WL 2471205, at \*1 (E.D. Va. June 20, 2011). To allow otherwise would “exploit” the leniency and privileges afforded to *pro se* litigants, who are held to less stringent standards as are parties represented by counsel. *Laremont-Lopez*, 968 F. Supp. 1075, 1078 (E.D. Va. 1997).

In the podcast, Mr. Cantwell asserts — erroneously, of course — that “there’s no rule against ghostwriting in a legal process” and that “it’s [been] a collaborative process” with Messrs. Hale and White. Cantwell Podcast at 34:35-35:03. Even assuming that Mr. Cantwell did in fact engage in a “collaborative process” to draft and research his recent filings in this case, that is of no moment. Unauthorized *assistance* with legal research and writing for a *pro se* litigant clearly qualifies as impermissible ghostwriting. *See Laremont-Lopez*, 968 F. Supp. at 1077 (noting that it is improper ghostwriting “to draft or *assist* in drafting complaints or other documents submitted to the Court on behalf of litigants designated as *pro se*” (emphasis added)); *Sejas*, 2011 WL 2471205, at \*1 (noting attorney would be “behaving unethically” if she were providing “*assistance*” to *pro se* litigant (emphasis added)); *Davis v. Back*, No. CIVA 3:09CV557, 2010 WL 1779982, at \*13 (E.D. Va. Apr. 29, 2010) (even the act of rendering unauthorized “legal advice” qualifies as ghostwriting).

In light of this new evidence, Plaintiffs reiterate their prior request that (1) any and all filings on behalf of Cantwell that were written by or with the aid of Messrs. White, Hale or any other ghostwriter be stricken; and (2) order that Mr. Cantwell is explicitly forbidden from using Messrs. White, Hale or any other ghostwriter in any *pro se* filings going forward.

Date: October 9, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roberta A. Kaplan', is written over a horizontal line.

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